

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A method for secure entry of a user-identifier in a publicly positioned device
2 comprising the steps of:
3 establishing a private communications link between a user and the publicly
4 positioned device;
5 prompting said user for a combination of random data and the user-identifier;
6 and,
7 discarding said random data from said combination.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said prompting step comprises the steps of:
2 separately prompting said user for said random data and the user-identifier; and,
3 combining said random data and the user-identifier into said combination.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said prompting step comprises the steps of:
2 dividing the user-identifier into at least two portions;
3 separately prompting said user for each portion of the user-identifier;
4 prompting said user for random data in between said separate prompts for said
5 at least two portions; and,
6 discarding said random data and combining said at least two portions, wherein
7 the user-identifier comprises a combination of said at least two portions.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the publicly positioned device has a visual
2 interface through which said user can be visually prompted for said random data and
3 the user-identifier.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the publicly positioned device has a telephone
2 interface through which said user can be audibly prompted for said random data and
3 the user-identifier.

4 6. The method of claim 4, wherein said establishing step comprises:
5 linking the publicly positioned device through an encoder application to active
6 glasses having a shuttered display, said shuttered display opening and closing
7 responsive to synchronization pulses;
8 synchronizing display of said prompts in said visual interface with said opening
9 and closing of said shuttered display in said active glasses; and,
10 displaying masking data in said visual interface between said display of said
11 prompts.

1 7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said synchronizing step comprises the
2 steps of:
3 generating a sequencing pattern containing synchronization pulses;
4 generating a data signal, said data signal comprising private data and masking
5 data frames interspersed according to said sequencing pattern, said private data
6 comprising said prompts;
7 providing said data signal to said visual interface; and,
8 opening and closing said shuttered display in said active glasses in accordance
9 with said sequencing pattern,
10 whereby said user viewing said visual interface with said active glasses can view
11 said prompts and unauthorized viewers without said active glasses can view only said
12 prompts obscured by said masking data.

1 8. The method according to claim 7, wherein said sequencing pattern is encoded.

1 9. The method according to claim 7, wherein said step of generating a data signal
2 comprises the steps of:

3 inserting masking data in said data signal; and,
4 inserting said private data in said data signal when indicated by said

5 synchronization pulses in said sequencing pattern.

1 10. The method according to claim 7, wherein said step of generating a data signal
2 comprises the steps of:

3 inserting masking data in said data signal; and,

4 for private data forming a complete character or image, repeatedly inserting
5 portions of said complete character or image when indicated by said synchronization
6 pulses in said sequencing pattern until all portions of said complete character or image
7 are inserted in said data signal,

8 whereby display of said data signal, as viewed by said active glasses
9 synchronized with said interface according to said sequencing pattern is a strobed
10 display of said complete character or image.

1 11. The method according to claim 7, wherein said step of opening and closing said
2 shuttered display comprises the step of, responsive to synchronization pulses in said
3 sequencing pattern, opening and closing said shuttered display.

1 12. The method according to claim 8, wherein said step of opening and closing said
2 shuttered display comprises the steps of:

3 decoding said encoded sequencing pattern; and,

4 responsive to said synchronization pulses in said sequencing pattern, opening
5 and closing said shuttered display.

1 13. The method according to claim 7, wherein said sequencing pattern corresponds
2 to alternating displays of said private data and said masking data.

1 14. The method according to claim 7, wherein said sequencing pattern corresponds
2 to combined left eye/right eye images of said private data.

3 15. The method according to claim 7, wherein said masking data is a fill pattern.

1 16. The method according to claim 3, wherein said establishing step comprises the
2 step of:

3 connecting said user to a telephone operator system through said telephone
4 interface,

5 said prompts audibly provided by said telephone operator system to said user
6 through said telephone interface.

1 17. The method according to claim 16, wherein said telephone operator system is an
2 interactive voice response ("IVR") system.

1 18. The method according to claim 16, wherein said telephone operator system is a
2 human telephone operator.

1 19. A machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program for
2 secure entry of a user-identifier in a publicly positioned device, said computer program
3 having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to
4 perform the steps of:

5 establishing a private communications link between a user and the publicly
6 positioned device;

7 prompting said user for a combination of random data and the user-identifier;
8 and,

9 discarding said random data from said combination.

1 20. The machine readable storage of claim 19, wherein said prompting step
2 comprises the steps of:

3 separately prompting said user for said random data and the user-identifier; and,

combining said random data and the user-identifier into said combination.

21. The machine readable storage of claim 19, wherein said prompting step comprises the steps of:

dividing the user-identifier into at least two portions;

separately prompting said user for each portion of the user-identifier;

prompting said user for random data in between said separate prompts for said at least two portions; and,

discarding said random data and combining said at least two portions, wherein the user-identifier comprises a combination of said at least two portions.

22. The machine readable storage of claim 19, wherein the publicly positioned device has a visual interface through which said user can be visually prompted for said random data and the user-identifier.

23. The machine readable storage of claim 19, wherein the publicly positioned device has a telephone interface through which said user can be audibly prompted for said random data and the user-identifier.

24. The machine readable storage of claim 22, wherein said establishing step comprises:

linking the publicly positioned device through an encoder application to active glasses having a shuttered display, said shuttered display opening and closing responsive to synchronization pulses;

synchronizing display of said prompts in said visual interface with said opening and closing of said shuttered display in said active glasses; and,

displaying masking data in said visual interface between said display of said prompts.

10 25. The machine readable storage of claim 24, wherein said synchronizing step
11 comprises the steps of:

12 generating a sequencing pattern containing synchronization pulses;
13 generating a data signal, said data signal comprising private data and masking
14 data frames interspersed according to said sequencing pattern, said private data
15 comprising said prompts;

16 providing said data signal to said visual interface; and,
17 opening and closing said shuttered display in said active glasses in accordance
18 with said sequencing pattern,

19 whereby said user viewing said visual interface with said active glasses can view
20 said prompts and unauthorized viewers without said active glasses can view only said
21 prompts obscured by said masking data.

1 26. The machine readable storage of claim 25, wherein said sequencing pattern is
2 encoded.

1 27. The machine readable storage of claim 25, wherein said step of generating a
2 data signal comprises the steps of:

3 inserting masking data in said data signal; and,
4 inserting said private data in said data signal when indicated by said
5 synchronization pulses in said sequencing pattern.

1 28. The machine readable storage of claim 25, wherein said step of generating a
2 data signal comprises the steps of:

3 inserting masking data in said data signal; and,
4 for private data forming a complete character or image, repeatedly inserting
5 portions of said complete character or image when indicated by said synchronization
6 pulses in said sequencing pattern until all portions of said complete character or image

are inserted in said data signal,
 whereby display of said data signal, as viewed by said active glasses
 synchronized with said visual interface according to said sequencing pattern is a
 strobed display of said complete character or image.

29. The machine readable storage of claim 25, wherein said step of opening and
 closing said shuttered display comprises the step of, responsive to synchronization
 pulses in said sequencing pattern, opening and closing said shuttered display.

30. The machine readable storage of claim 26, wherein said step of opening and
 closing said shuttered display comprises the steps of:
 decoding said encoded sequencing pattern; and,
 responsive to said synchronization pulses in said sequencing pattern, opening
 and closing said shuttered display.

31. The machine readable storage of claim 25, wherein said sequencing pattern
 corresponds to alternating displays of said private data and said masking data.

32. The machine readable storage of claim 25, wherein said sequencing pattern
 corresponds to combined left eye/right eye images of said private data.

33. The machine readable storage of claim 25, wherein said masking data is a fill
 pattern.

34. The machine readable storage of claim 23, wherein said establishing step
 comprises the step of:
 connecting said user to a telephone operator system through said telephone
 interface,

[illegible]

36. The machine readable storage according to claim 34, wherein said telephone operator system is a human telephone operator.